

**Information on
Expeditious Naturalization
For Certain Children
Under Section 322 of INA**

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GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETING AND FILING FORMS N-600 AND N-600A

The N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, and, when necessary, the N-600A supplement form, should be completed when a citizen of the United States cannot transmit United States citizenship on to his or her children at the time of birth.

Section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) became effective March 1, 1995. The law enables a United States citizen parent who could not transmit citizenship to his or her child at the time of birth to file for a certificate of citizenship for that child by submitting an N-600 application packet. Upon approval of the application and administration of the oath of allegiance, the child would then become a United States citizen. To be eligible, the citizen parent, the child and possibly the child's citizen grandparent, must meet certain requirements. These requirements are:

1. At least one parent is a citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization;
2. The child is physically present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission;
3. The child is under the age of 18 years and in the legal custody of the citizen parent;
4. If the citizen parent is an adoptive parent of the child, the child was adopted by the citizen parent before the child reached the age of 16 years and the child meets the requirements for being an orphan or adopted child. (An N-600 application packet **is not** used in adoptive cases. The parent must obtain and complete an N-643 application packet.)
5. If the citizen parent has not been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after the age of 14 --
 - A. the child is residing permanently in the United States with the citizen parent, pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence, or
 - B. a citizen parent of the citizen parent has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after the age of 14.

The N-600 application, and if necessary, N-600A supplement form, may be filed in the United States or from abroad. If the United States citizen parent and child live abroad, the N-600 application packet may be filed at any Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) field office or suboffice in the United States. If they reside in the United States, the application packet must be filed at the INS office or suboffice having jurisdiction over the applicant's residence. In either case the parent and the child are required to appear in person for an interview at the INS office in the United States where the N-600 application packet was filed. A separate N-600 application packet must be filed for each child seeking a certificate of citizenship.

Applicants may indicate when they would like to be interviewed; however, INS cannot guaranty that the interview will be scheduled when requested. If your application and supplement are reviewed favorably, the INS office will issued a notice that the application has been preliminary approved. The notice will inform you about the location, time and date where you and your child must appear for the INS interview.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

AGE OF APPLICANT: The application and supplement must be submitted and the entire process completed prior to the child's 18th birthday. If your child is now 17 years old, you should alert the INS office when you file the application about the imminent birthday. In such situations, the INS will endeavor to make it a priority to schedule the interview before the child's 18th birthday.

FEE: A fee of \$100 is required upon submission of the application packet. Fees must be paid in United States currency through a money order, certified check, or cashiers check. The INS does not accept personal checks or cash.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Submit two identical glossy finish, color photographs showing a three-quarter profile of the face. The photograph must be unmounted, printed on thin paper, and have a white background. The subject must not be wearing earrings or head dress (unless required by a religious order). The dimensions of the face must be, from the top of the head to point of chin, approximately 30mm.

FACTS CONCERNING ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES: Detailed information should be included in Number 3 of the N-600 regarding the child's arrival in the United States. If the child resides abroad, leave Number 3 blank. You will be required to provide this information to the INS officer at the time of the interview.

NAME TO BE RECORDED ON CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP: The certificate will be issued only in the name that the child has a legal right to use. Because the expeditious naturalization process is an administrative function, you cannot petition the INS to officially change the child's name.

COMPLETING PAGE TWO OF N-600: Respond to all items on Page 2, Numbers 7 through 14. Then, if necessary, complete the N-600A supplement, providing all relevant information on Numbers 7A through 10A. The information presented will be vital in determining your child's eligibility for expeditious naturalization. The information will assist the INS officer to confirm the parent's and/or the grandparent's physical presence in the United States.

DOCUMENTS: Any documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by a full translation in English. The translator must certify that he or she is competent to translate and the translation is accurate.

To apply, submit the following documentation attached to the completed N-600 application:

- The child's birth certificate.
- Your birth certificate.
- If transmission is through a grandparent, attach a completed N-600A.
- If transmission is through a grandparent, the grandparent's birth certificate or naturalization certificate.
- If you are divorced from the child's other parent, submit the document verifying that the child is in your legal custody or that both parents share joint custody.
- If you are the child's father, your marriage certificate or documents verifying that your child was legitimated according to the laws of the child's residence.
- If you are the child's mother but your name has been changed legally from what is recorded on your birth certificate and/or the child's birth certificate, submit the document authorizing the change of name (marriage certificate, court order, etc.).
- If transmission is through the child's grandmother and her name has been changed legally from what is recorded on her birth certificate, naturalization certificate and/or what is recorded on your birth certificate, submit the documents authorizing the change of name (marriage certificate, court order, etc.).

- Verification that the transmitting parent or grandparent had the required physical presence in the United States. That parent or grandparent must have lived in the United States or its outlying possessions for five years, two of which were after the age of 14. **Note:** the citizen grandparent can be living or deceased at the time of application.

Documents submitted may be in the form of school records, work or business records, census records, military records, etc. If limited documentation is available, submit notarized affidavits of at least two persons who were living at the time, and who have personal knowledge of what you are trying to prove. Persons making the affidavit may be relatives; they do not have to be United States citizens. Each affidavit should contain the following information regarding the person making the affidavit: full name and address, date and place of birth, relationship to you if any, full information concerning the event and complete details concerning how he or she acquired knowledge of the event.

Applicants should be aware that affidavits are considered to be secondary evidence. Because an INS officer may be unable to verify an individual's residence when only affidavits are submitted as evidence, additional documentation may be necessary.

Copies of these documents are acceptable. Be prepared, however, to produce the originals at the time of your interview with INS.

HOW TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT FORMS N-600 AND N-600A SUPPLEMENT

1. Complete all items on the N-600 application and, if necessary, the N-600A supplement. If a question does not apply to you, your parent or your child write "Not Applicable" (N/A) in the space provided. If you need additional space, continue on a separate sheet of paper.
3. If you are residing in the United States, file your N-600 application packet at the INS office having jurisdiction over your residence. If you are residing abroad, you may mail your application to any INS field office in the United States. See attached list for current addresses.
4. If there are any deficiencies in the N-600 application or supplement, the forms will be returned to you. Instructions will be included on how to overcome the deficiencies. If it appears that your child is not eligible for the certificate, a Notice of Intent to Deny the Application will be issued. You will be given the opportunity to rebut any intent to deny or to overcome any deficiencies.
5. If the INS office where you filed your N-600 application packet preliminarily approves the application, you and your child will be scheduled for an interview and you will be sent an appointment notice.

DO NOT MAKE ANY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR APPOINTMENT LETTER!

6. If you and the child reside overseas, present your appointment notice to the American embassy or consulate having jurisdiction over your residence. If the child is eligible for a B-2 visitor's visa, one will be issued. If the child already has a valid B-2 visa or is from a country eligible for the Visa Waiver Pilot Program (VWPP), issuance of another visa is not required. (VWPP countries are: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.) Children born in Mexico or Canada are not required to have a visa; however, they must still prove they have been lawfully admitted to the United States.
7. Parents who live abroad should make their travel arrangements to coincide with the interview date. The citizen parent and the child must both appear at the INS office on the scheduled date and time.

During the interview the INS Officer will make a final determination on your application. Upon approval, the oath of allegiance will be administered, unless waived, and a certificate of citizenship will be issued to the child.

8. The certificate of citizenship may then be used to apply for a United States passport for the child .

Note: Your child will become a United States citizen only after the application is process is completed and the oath of allegiance to the United States is administered or waived.